

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W  
----- 035202

R 271501Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6880

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; LENINGRAD FOR P&C; USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: CONTACTS IN LITERARY FIELD

REF: (A) STATE 146120, (B) MOSCOW 10104, (C) STATE 170913,  
(D) 75 MOSCOW 15970

1. SUMMARY. RECENT CONTACTS INDICATE CONTINUING INTEREST ON PART OF WRITERS' UNION AND LITERARY SCHOLARS IN IMPROVING CONTACTS WITH U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. T. A. KUDRYAVTSEVA OF "JOURNAL OF FOREIGN LITERATURE" TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT SOVIET UNION OF WRITERS IS NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER IT SHOULD APPROACH AMERICAN P. E. N. WITH PROPOSAL FOR PROGRAM OF CONTACTS BETWEEN WRITERS. KUDRYAVTSEVA EMPHASIZED THAT QUESTION WAS STILL VERY MUCH UNDER DISCUSSION WITH NO DECISION LIKELY IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

3. KUDRYAVTSEVA INDICATED UNION OF WRITERS' LEADERSHIP IS AWARE OF POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICAN P.E. N. BUT INDICATED MANY PEOPLE IN UNION THOUGHT THAT POSSIBLE BENEFITS WERE WORTH THE RISK OF REBUFF INVOLVED IN MAKING AN APPROACH.

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4. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS DESIREABLE TO ENCOURAGE UNION TO

OPEN CONTACTS WITH P.E. N. KUDRYAVTSEVA REQUESTED  
EMBOFF'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING UP-TO-DATE LIST OF  
P. E. N. OFFICERS AND ADDRESSES. REQUEST DEPT'S VIEWS ON  
DESIRABILITY OF ENCOURAGING UNION-P.E.N. CONTACTS.  
ALSO REQUEST INFO ON CURRENT P.E.N. LEADERSHIP AND  
CINFORMATION OF FOLLOWING ADDRESS: P. E. N. AMERICAN CENTER,  
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010.

5. ALSO REQUEST REPORT ON DEPT'S EFFORTS TO FIND US CO-SPONSOR  
FOR LITERATURE SEMINAR. SEMINAR/VISIT DISCUSSED REFS  
COULD PROVIDE USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRST INFORMAL EXPLORA-  
TION OF CONTACT POSSIBILITIES BY UNION, P.E. N. REPS.  
WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE BELIEVE SOVIETS WOULD WANT FIRST  
CONTACTS TO BE VERY INFORMAL AND WITHOUT PUBLICITY.

6. ALSO IN LITERARY FIELD, CAO, ACCOMPANIED BY ACAO/  
EXCHANGES, PAID INTRODUCTORY CALL ON A. M. USHAKOV,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GORKY INSTITUTE OF WORLD LITERATURE OF  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES JULY 26. SEVEN OTHER MEMBERS OF  
INSTITUTE STAFF WORKING ON AMERICAN LIT ALSO WERE PRESENT  
FOR MEETING, WHICH WAS UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY ONE. IN COURSE  
OF DISCUSSIONS, USHAKOV SPOKE AT LENGTH ON INSTITUTE'S  
INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A DIRECT EXCHANGE RELATIONSHIP  
WITH AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH STRONG DEPARTMENT OF LITERARY  
STUDIES. EMBOFFS REPLIED THAT PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF  
LECTURERS BETWEEN ACADEMY INSTITUTES AND  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES IS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED AND THAT  
ONCE SIGNED THIS WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR EXCHANGE.

7. USHAKOV INDICATED GORKY INSTITUTE WOULD INDEED WISH TO  
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ACADEMY LECTURER EXCHANGE BUT NEVERTHELESS  
WAS INTERESTED IN PARTNER OF ITS OWN FOR MORE EXTENSIVE  
EXCHANGES. EMBOFFS MENTIONED KENNAN INSTITUTE AS POSSIBLE  
PARTNER AND USHAKOV LISTENED WITH INTEREST AS EMBOFFS  
EXPLAINED BRIEFLY KENNAN INSTITUTE'S ORGANIZATION, PURPOSE.  
USHAKOV THEN INDICATED HE FELT A MAJOR UNIVERSITY WOULD BE  
MORE APPROPRIATE PARTNER. USHAKOV ALSO CONFIRMED HE WAS  
AWARE OF RECENT IREX-SPONSORED LITERATURE CONFERENCE AT  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY.

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8. EMBOFF ASKED HOW SUCH AN EXCHANGE COULD BE INITIATED.  
USHAKOV REPLIED THAT GORKY INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP COULD  
EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES DIRECTLY AND THAT ACADEMY PRESIDUM AND INTER-  
NATIONAL RELATIONS SECTION WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED EXCEPT  
TO APPROVE RELATIONSHIP AFTER IT WAS WORKED OUT. USHAKOV  
ADDED THAT VISIT OF GORKY INSTITUTE OFFICIAL(S) TO  
POSSIBLE US PARTNER INSTITUTION OR TO USSR BY REPS OF US  
INSTITUTION WOULD BE NECESSARY.

9. INCLUSION OF GORKY INSTITUTE REP IN SOVIET DELEGATION TO EVENTUAL LITERATURE SEMINAR MIGHT BE ONE MEANS OF INITIATING DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN GORKY INSTITUTE AND US UNIVERSITIES. REQUEST DEPT ALSO INFORM IREX OF GORKY INSTITUTE'S INTEREST AND OBTAIN FROM THEM SUGGESTIONS REGARDING AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES WITH STRONG CONCENTRATIONS IN RUSSIAN/SOVIET AND AMERICAN LIT WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN EXCHANGE OF LECTURERS AND RESEARCHERS. (FYI, USHAKOV REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM EMB LIST OF 1976/77 IREX EXCHANGEES WORKING ON LITERARY TOPICS. HE SAID GORKY INSTITUTE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR WORK.)

10. ALSO REQUEST DEPT ADVISE ON WHETHER HENRY NASH SMITH (SEE REF D) WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR VISIT TO USSR DURING COMING ACADEMIC YEAR. DEPT WILL RECALL HE WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AS LECTURER NOMINEE TO GORKY INSTITUTE IN THE EVENT THAT LECTURE EXCHANGE WITH ACADEMY COULD BE IMPLEMENTED. IF AVAILABLE, EMB WOULD WISH TO SUBMIT NOMINATION SHORTLY AFTER EXCHANGE WITH ACADEMY FINALIZED.

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